

November 23, 2020

Regular Meeting-

The regular meeting of the City of Port Jervis Common Council was held via Zoom Meeting # 405 793 5811 on Monday November 23rd, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Attendance: Present were All members of the Common Council. Corporation Counsel William Frank, Deputy Counsel Stephanie Tunic and Deputy City Clerk Treasurer Bobbie Jo Muller were also present.

Pledge of Allegiance-

The Mayor Kelly Decker opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor: Okay. It is 6:30 PM on Monday November 23rd, 2020. I'll call the meeting of the Port Jervis City Common Council to order. Please rise for the pledge. I have the flag behind me. I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. And to the republic in which it stands. One nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Timothy Simmons: God bless America.

Mayor: Alright, Stanley's coming in. Alright our first order of business is four items for an executive session, Request for Tax Lien Purchase, Litigation, Offer of Purchase – Promenade and Labor Attorney Contractual. What's your pleasure?

Gerald Oney: So, moved.

Lisa Randazzo: Second

Mayor: Hold on just let me let Chandler in here. Motion by Gerald Oney, second by Lisa Randazzo. Discussion? All in favor?

Tim Simmons: Do we need to identify ourselves?

Mayor: No not for executive session, when we come out, we will.

Tim Simmons: Okay, thank you.

Mayor: All in favor?

Audience: Chorus of Ayes.

Mayor: Opposed, so carried. Thank you.

Mayor: It's 6:47 pm I'll call the meeting of the Port Jervis Common Council back to order. For those of you that are unaware we started the session with the Pledge of Allegiance, we just got back from executive session, we will have a couple pieces of material to discuss when we get to that part. First in order is a Public Hearing for Local Law #4 of 2020 the Proposed Tax Cap Override. I will turn it over to Kristin.

Audience: Reminded Mayor to do attendance.

Mayor: Sorry I have to do attendance.

William Frank: Need to come out of executive session.

Mayor: Okay. First let's do that, a motion to come out of executive session. Do I have a motion?

Lisa Randazzo: So, moved.

Mayor: Motion by Ms. Randazzo, do I have a second?

Regis Foster: Second.

November 23, 2020

Mayor: Second by Mr. Foster, discussion. All In favor?

Audience: Chorus of Ayes.

Mayor: Opposed, so carried. Thank you.

Mayor: Next Attendance, so I'll call your name. Please state your first name, last name and the Council that you represent. Mr. Frank?

William Frank: William Frank, Corporation Council, good evening.

Mayor: Mayor Kelly Decker, City of Port Jervis.

Mayor: Maria?

Maria Mann: Maria Mann, Second Ward Council, present.

Mayor: Mr. Simmons?

Timothy Simmons: Tim Simmons, Fourth Ward Council, present.

Mayor: Mr. Oney?

Gerald Oney: Gerald Oney Jr. Third Ward Councilman, present.

Mayor: Ms. Tunic?

Stephanie Tunic: Stephanie Tunic, Deputy Corporation Council.

Mayor: Ms. Trovei?

Kristin Trovei: Kristin Trovei, Third Ward Council, present.

Mayor: Mr. Siegel?

Stanley Siegel: Stanley Siegel, Fourth Ward Councilman, present.

Mayor: Miss Campbell?

Chandler Campbell: Chandler Campbell, Second Ward Council, present.

Mayor: Mr. Santini?

Dominick Santini: Dominic Santini, First Ward Council.

Mayor: Ms. Randazzo?

Lisa Randazzo: Lisa Randazzo, Councilwoman at Large, present.

Mayor: And Mr. Foster?

Regis Foster: Regis Foster, First Ward Council, present.

Mayor: And now, our first in order is a Public Hearing for Local Law #4 of 2020 the Proposed Tax Cap Override. I'll entertain a motion to reopen this meeting.

Stanley Siegel: So, moved.

Mayor: Motion by Mr. Siegel. Do I have a second?

Regis Foster: Second.

November 23, 2020

Mayor: I have a second by Mr. Foster. Discussion? All in Favor?

Audience: Chorus of Ayes.

Mayor: Opposed? Silence so carried. Ms. Trovei, the floor is yours.

Kristin Trovei: Thank you. As previously stated at previous public hearings this Local Law #4 is to override the State imposed tax cap. The tax cap is 1.5%. This Local Law will allow us to go over that percentage if the Council chooses. It is up to the Council to decide what the tax rate is and what the budget is.

After three budget workshops, the tax rate is at 3.9%, which is a decrease of about 5% from when it was presented to us in October. We would need to cut an approximately 154 or \$155,000 to get to 1.5%. We are waiting for final health insurance rates, which we are hoping are lower, but we have no guarantee about it right now. And we also have a request to add funds to the budget such as adding funds to the dispatcher line for the police department, which put the dispatcher on the desk instead of a police officer. We are going to have another budget workshop on December 3rd to address these final issues.

Another bit of information that we talked about at these past public hearings is about the ability to collect revenue on reassessed or new property. Our City Clerk Treasurer has discussed this with the controller's office. And according to the controller's office, without the override in place, we cannot use any additional revenue from reassessed properties, or new properties, if the annexations from the Town of Deerpark goes through.

Additionally, we wouldn't be able to participate in a tax sharing agreement, that was supposed to occur with the annexation with the Town of Deerpark, without the program in place. So, we can do the override and keep the budget at whatever rate the Council wants, and also capitalize on the ability to collect revenue which will potentially and hopefully offset future costs and tax increases when we reassess and when we develop new properties. This tax cap override must be passed prior to the passage of the budget and it must make its way through the state's process. If we pass it too late and it doesn't make its way through the whole process up at the state and get approved, it's basically null and void and it doesn't count. So, with that, that's basically the tax cap. Does anyone from the Council have anything to say about the tax cap override local law?

Kelly Decker: Do we have members of the public? Is there anyone from the public that would like to speak on the tax cap override? Not hearing anyone and I have nobody in the waiting room. We'll entertain a motion to close the public hearing.

Kristin Trovei: So, moved.

Kelly Decker: Motion by Ms. Trovei. Second?

Lisa Randazzo: Second.

Kelly Decker: Second by Ms. Randazzo. Was it? Yeah. Discussion? All in favor?

Audience: Chorus of Ayes.

Kelly Decker: Opposed? Silence so carried. Thank you. We now are at our first public comment. Is there anyone from the public that would like to speak on any matter? Not hearing anybody. I'll move on to approval of the minutes of the November 9th, 2020 Common Council meeting. What's your pleasure?

Regis Foster: So, moved.

Kelly Decker: Motion by Mr. Foster. Second?

Stanley Siegel: Second.

Kelly Decker: Second, Siegel. Discussion? All in favor?

Audience: Chorus of Ayes.

November 23, 2020

Kelly Decker: Opposed? Silence so carried. Addressing executive session material. I'd first like to ask the Council to entertain a motion to pass a resolution of the Common Council for the City of Port Jervis to authorize litigation against the New York and Greenwood Lake Railroad. Whereas the City of Port Jervis known as The City has previously entered into a licensing agreement dated January 22nd, 2008, a licensee with the New York and Greenwood Lake Railway, and whereas the purpose of the license was to permit the railway to use certain City owned properties surrounding the historical... Excuse me, the historic Port Jervis turntable to restore repair and store historic railroad equipment they're on.

And whereas the railway failed to use the property as intended and as such the City previously terminated the license and directed that all railway owned equipment be removed by the date certain. And whereas it has become necessary to initiate litigation against the railway due to its failure to remove its equipment for City property and whereas the Common Council of the City of Port Jervis hereby finds that it is in the best interest of the City to initiate litigation against the railway. Now, therefore it is hereby resolved that Common Council of the City of Port Jervis hereby authorizes City corporation Council to initiate litigation against the New York and Greenwood Lake Railway and or James Wilson as the railway's president to include any and all viable causes of action available to the City in law or in equity. What's your pleasure?

Stanley Siegel: So, moved.

Timothy Simmons: Second

Kelly Decker: I have motion by Mr. Siegel. Second by Mr. Simmons. Discussion?

Stanley Siegel: He's had over a dozen years to do something with that property. So the time has come where either he does something or we get it because it's in the way of a future museum by sitting there and just deteriorating.

Kelly Decker: Thank you. Okay. The next order of business that has come out the executive.

Timothy Simmons: Forgot the vote.

Mayor: Oh, I'm sorry. All in favor?

Audience: Chorus of Ayes.

Kelly Decker: Opposed? Silence so carried. Thank you. The next order of business that I have coming out of the executive session is for our Council regarding the law office of Thomas, Drohan, Waxman, Petigrow & Mayle, LLP. What's your pleasure?

Kristin Trovei: So, moved

Kelly Decker: A motion by Mrs. Trovei. Do I have a second?

Regis Foster: Second.

Kelly Decker: Second by Mr. Foster. This is for our labor Council. Discussion? It is sustained exactly the same as this year. Okay. All in favor?

Audience: Chorus of Ayes.

Kelly Decker: Opposed? Silence so carried. Thank you. All right, first order of business, Mr. Foster, Police and ADA.

Regis Foster: Thank you Mayor, this committee has not met, but however, we have been awarded \$16,200 from the governor's traffic safety committee, to participate in the police traffic service program. The goal is to increase seatbelt usage and reduce dangerous driving behaviors in an effort to reduce serious injuries and deaths from traffic crashes. Seatbelt mobilization enforcement has been awarded to us \$6,480. Regular police enforcement was \$9,720 giving us a total of \$16,200. So I'm very grateful that we got awarded that.

Kelly Decker: Mr. Foster, I need a motion to approve that award to receive?

Regis Foster: Oh, okay. I like to make a motion to approve the governor's traffic safety committee funding.

November 23, 2020

Kelly Decker: I have a motion by Mr. Foster. Do I have a second?

Kristin Trovei: Second.

Kelly Decker: Second by Mrs. Trovei. Discussion? All in favor?

Audience: Chorus of Ayes.

Kelly Decker: Opposed? Silence so carried. Thank you.

Regis Foster: Our next police committee meeting is going to be on December 17th, 6:00 PM, probably on Zoom or Council chambers, whatever happens. And our next ADA meeting, we've not met yet, will be on March 1st at 6:30 in the Council of chambers. And Happy Thanksgiving, everybody.

Kelly Decker: Thank you. Mr. Santini.

Dominick Santini: Thank you, Mayor. Code has not met since our last meeting. The next code meeting is Wednesday, December 2nd. We don't know for in-person or Zoom yet, but I will notify you prior.

Kelly Decker: It will be in zoom and I'll set that meeting up for you.

Dominick Santini: Okay. Thank you very much. And I assume it's the same code as is used for this?

Kelly Decker: Yes.

Dominick Santini: Okay. And that is all. Thank you.

Kelly Decker: Thank you, sir. Ms. Campbell.

Chandler Campbell: Thank you, Mayor. The youth center rec room is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 3:00 to 6:00. We are closed on Wednesdays. All students that attend must wear a face mask and have parent permission form filled out prior. Passing limit for the recreation room 15 at this moment. This week is Thanksgiving week and the youth center will be open Monday, November 23rd and Tuesday, November 24th from 12:30 to 5:30. We will be closed November 25th to the 27th. Please note the schedule is subject to change. Please check our Facebook page and call the rec office if you have any questions. The rec department is holding a toy drive for the holiday season called Santa's Toy Box. New toys can be dropped off the youth center Monday through Friday between 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM. All toys collected will go to the children right here in the Tri-State area. The toy drive will start Monday, November 30th and end Thursday, December 18th. We appreciate any help that you guys can give us. Thank you.

Chandler Campbell: The park cleanup and casino trip to Mohegan Sun will not be rescheduled, the lights at Church Street, tennis and basketball courts will be shut off on December 4th. He will turn them back on in the spring of 2021. The little chefs at Port Jervis rec held last class this Saturday, November 21st at 10:00 AM. We're looking forward to our spring class on May 2021. Yoga classes are being held at the youth center on the second floor on Mondays and Wednesdays at 11:00 AM till 12:00 PM. Please contact Olivia at 856-6234. Class size is limited to nine participants. Busy bodies art and craft classes will begin in January 2021 on Saturday mornings at the youth center. For more information, please call the rec office and we will have that within a few weeks. All visitors and guests in the youth center are required to wear a face mask. If you feel sick, please stay home. Call us if you have any questions. We can be reached at 845-858-4045. Thank you and we hope you all have a Happy and healthy Thanksgiving. That's all.

Kelly Decker: Thank you. Anything else Ms. Campbell?

Chandler Campbell: That's all I have.

Kelly Decker: Thank you, Mrs. Mann tourism ADA.

Maria Mann: Thank you, Mayor. Tourism is holding their annual holiday lighting contest; entries must be received by December 15. There are two categories, traditional and festive. Applications are available on the City webpage and the Port Jervis tourism Facebook page. You can mail your application to the Port Jervis tourism board, City of Port Jervis, 20 Hammond Street. Please put attention holiday lights contest. You may also fax your application at

November 23, 2020

845-856-8847. There's no entry fee, the winners will be announced online and at the next scheduled City Council meeting. The board hasn't met since their last meeting, their next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 9th at 7:00 PM. I believe it will be via Zoom, Mayor?

Kelly Decker: Yes. I won't know until the first. I'm guessing that it's going to be, especially with the recommendation of our County Health Commissioner with the schools to close two weeks after Thanksgiving, I'm guessing we're all going to follow protocol with that.

Maria Mann: Okay. I wasn't certain. Thank you, Mayor. The IDA has not met since their last meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 21st at 6:00 PM, via Zoom. And one other thing, the annual Kucher's Kids Shoe Drive has officially stepped off. This year the organizers of the Shoe Drive are requesting new sneakers and boots for children and young adults. Drop off locations for the footwear will be at two Port Jervis businesses, State Farm Insurance located at 20 East Main Street and the Gun Lady located at 41 Front Street. Only donations of new footwear will be accepted. All donations should be made by December 12th. That's all that I have. And thank you Mayor. I want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Kelly Decker: Thank you Mrs. Mann. Mr. Oney.

Gerald Oney, Jr.: Thank you, Mayor. Garbage and recycling will be on its normal schedule for the first and second wards this week. The third and fourth wards will be collected on Wednesday the 25th due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Fourth ward papers will be collected on Monday the 30th of November. The City's bulk waste truck is available to City of Port Jervis residents only on Saturday mornings from 7:15 to 11:30. Please make sure you have a ticket purchased from the City clerk's office. The City clerk's office is by appointment these days and prior to four o'clock. Leaf pickup is continuing weekly with bagged and canned debris being removed first. Loose-leaves will follow in the next couple of weeks. Please be sure to tie up your brush if you have it. Also, yard debris needs to be left in cans of 35 gallons or less, or in biodegradable composable bags. The next DPW meeting will be Monday, December 7th, at 6:00 PM in the Council chambers. That's all I have Mayor.

Kelly Decker: Mr. Oney, I did have under you that two Brook Street, sewer issue and you all received this, right? The problem is that I have not received a signed out affidavit nor have I received any acknowledgement that there is no sewer hookup there. So, I'm going to put this over on hold until I get those acknowledgements.

Gerald Oney, Jr.: I think that's where that was in communication back to the homeowner.

Kelly Decker: Great.

Gerald Oney, Jr.: Through the clerk's office.

Kelly Decker: Thank you. Okay. Thank you, sir, Mrs. Trovei finance, CDA.

Kristin Trovei: Thank you. The CDA met November 18th. On that night both Gerry & I were attending a budget workshop and were unable to attend. I don't think anything very significant came out of that meeting that I need to report but I didn't receive any report, the CDA will meet remotely on December 16th at 7:00 PM. Finance met on November 18, prior to the budget workshop. The committee itself reviewed an offer on the property the City received during the tax lien process. The Council decided to not sell the property and put it on the list for public auction that should occur in the spring of 2021. The committee discussed the structural evaluation quotes of the Franklin Street building. The original quote that was received about a month ago of \$5,000 is the lowest of the three. So, the committee will be recommending Fuller Engineering to receive that structural evaluation. Also, the 2019(miss-spoke should be 2020) tax lien sale was held November 17th in an open air environment, so thank you to the clerk's office and the DPW and the fire department's office for helping out to keep our tax lien sale going. There were 20 properties that remained on the list and 18 were sold. The City was left with two. They are in bad shape so we will be talking about what to do with at least one of them very soon I'm sure. And at our Finance meeting we had a budget workshop. I already reviewed we are at 3.9%, which is down about 5% from the previous proposal.

Kristin Trovei: Finance will potentially be again on December 16th at 6:00 PM if there is business next month. At this time, we have bills to pay from the general fund \$354,540.50 from water fund \$64,400.86 from the sewer fund \$12,246.39 from the capital fund, \$751,441.74, from trust and agency \$649,016.13 that is a total of \$1,831,645.62. Some of the larger items from the general, water and or sewer fund, NYS employee health insurance \$220,773.35, Orange County landfill \$23,801.14, New York State workers' compensation \$23,202.30, Global Montello Group is for

November 23, 2020

gas and diesel \$11,228.29. From the capital fund DA Collins Construction, \$304,864.83, Sullivan County paving \$360,892.30, Tri-State Emergency Lighting \$12,000 and Hufcut for the sidewalk project \$60,213.34. Make a motion to pay the bills.

Kelly Decker: I have a motion by Ms. Trovei.

Lisa Randazzo: Second.

Kelly Decker: Second by Ms. Randazzo. Discussion? All in favor?

Audience: Chorus of Ayes.

Kelly Decker: Opposed? Silence so carried.

Kristin Trovei: Thank you. I'd just like to make a motion to approve Fuller Engineering for \$5,000 for the Franklin Street building evaluation. The money will be coming out of the contingency fund.

Kelly Decker: I have a motion by Ms. Trovei, do I have a second?

Gerald Oney, Jr.: Second.

Kelly Decker: Second by Mr. Oney. Discussion? All in favor?

Audience: Chorus of Ayes.

Kelly Decker: Opposed? Silence so carried

Kristin Trovei: At this time, per standard procedure, I would like to set a public hearing for the 2021 budget for the next Council meeting, which will be Monday, December 14th, at 6:31 PM.

Kelly Decker: I have a motion by Ms. Trovei to set the public hearing for the 2021 budget, on December 14th at 6:31 PM. Do I have a second?

Lisa Randazzo: Second.

Kelly Decker: Second by Ms. Randazzo. Discussion? All in favor?

Audience: Chorus of Ayes.

Kelly Decker: Opposed? Silence so carried.

Kristin Trovei: Thank you. I'll make a motion to approve local law number four.

Kelly Decker: I have a motion by Ms... Excuse me, by Ms. Trovei, do I have a second?

Regis Foster: Second.

Lisa Randazzo: Second.

Kelly Decker: Second by Mr. Foster. To approve, I'm going to do a roll call vote. Mr. Siegel.

Stanley Siegel: I couldn't hear the motion. What was the motion?

Kelly Decker: The motion to approve local law number 4- 2020, tax cap override.

Stanley Siegel: No.

Kelly Decker: Mr. Simmons.

Timothy Simmons: No, I believe we need to do some more work on it.

November 23, 2020

Kelly Decker: Okay. Folks just remember that if we don't pass this tonight it will not make it through the state at our next meeting by the 14th. So once this ... If this goes down, the tax cap override will not happen? You will have to bring your budget down to 1.52. Is it 1.52? Mrs. Trovei?

Kristin Trovei: I'm am again. I don't think we had discussion. I think the Council was trying to get it to one and a half percent if that's what the Council wants to do. I'm in favor of it because of all the information that we received from the state comptroller's office, talking about how not overriding the tax cap can negatively affect our revenues in the future. And I don't want to put the City at the risk of losing potential revenue because we didn't pass this. So if we need it at one and a half percent, if that's what it has to be. But I'm not going to put the City in a lesser financial position because we didn't pass this. So I am a yes.

Kelly Decker: By the way, my apologies, we can go back to discussion because I did not ask for discussion. The other thing I just want to add in also to this is Orange and Rockland substation will be done. It will be a tremendous increase in tax revenue that we will not see if the tax cap does not pass. Again, you can pass the tax cap and you can say you're not doing any tax increase. Passing the tax cap override does not mean that you have to go over the tax cap. So, is there any other discussion?

Stanley Siegel: I didn't have a chance for discussion that's usually later.

Kelly Decker: I'm sorry about that.

Stanley Siegel: There are still things that we can do to bring it down to a more reasonable number than 4%. And we need to discuss that, and we've discussed it over and over. But a modest increase, I've always said that a modest increase is essential to running anything, a government, a home or whatever. But 4% is not modest to a lot of people in our ward, in the second ward and probably in all the wards, we are the only entity in three counties, including the three counties that wants to override the tax cap. We could do things I think, to bring the number down to a better percentage without going down to 1.5%. That's an insane number I think, because I think we can do things to have a better number 2, 2.5, 2.375, something like that. So, to like to threaten me with the fact that we'll go with 1.5% is not fair because we've offered opportunities that were not taken. And there are still opportunities we can still offer.

Lisa Randazzo: What you're saying makes absolutely no sense. So, you're saying that you want to forego overriding the tax cap. And this is, I mean, to the point now where I'm sorry that the public needs to start really paying attention to the fact that we have Council members that are representing them, that don't understand what we're doing. So, for three budget workshops now, you've sat in those meetings. You will not come to the table with one significant cut that has equaled 1% of \$64,000. And now you're telling us that... First it was, I believe in meeting before we held the workshop that the amendable amount was 4%. You publicly said that, now you went back, and you want it lower. That's fine. I don't think any Council person has an issue with that. And I don't think any of us want to see anyone suffering by not being able to take into account that they have to pay something additional. But you're also saying that you think there's an increase that's going to be acceptable each year, but we have to meet 1.52%. Otherwise you have to pass the tax cap override. And you said this is the last budget workshop. And people need to go back and watch these meetings. And I urge the public to go back and watch these meetings because you're not what is being stated here. You're at the workshops, contradicting your own words.

Lisa Randazzo: So we have a budget tax cap now to override from 1.52% just alone with our increases to contract that you voted for, I voted for, other members of this Council voted for, well knowing that there are 1.52%, if that was the number, we were never going to meet that. So now what you're saying is that something has to be cut, and, but nothing's being put out to the table where you're cutting. So if you're cutting salaries, those numbers would have had three workshops should have been put out there. If you're cutting people and staff, those people should be aware by now and be able to come to these meetings and speak up. Now, what we're going to do is, we're not going to go past the tax cap override law here, and then come the 11th hour it can be blamed on everybody else. And we've been pushing this and talking about it since July and nothing has changed.

Lisa Randazzo: I would love to know what the members of his Council, that want to vote no to this, what you're proposing to bring that down. And I like to hear that publicly here at a Council meeting, what you're cutting, that getting it down. What Ms. Trovei just told you was, \$154,000. How do we get to that?

Stanley Siegel: I hope you understand what you're choosing, because you're a little bit all wet. I proposed, we proposed, a group of us proposed that we forego our salaries of \$5,000. All of a sudden at the very last thing, after

November 23, 2020

the last time it was proposed, and we were told we can't do that. Part of that proposal was going to be that everyone in the City forego up to 5% of their raise, nobody gets a raise. If we did that alone, that would bring it down over 1%.

Lisa Randazzo: Stan you approved the contracts for those people.

Stanley Siegel: There's no-

Lisa Randazzo: You voted to approve contracts.

Stanley Siegel: There are non-contractual people that can give up their raise.

Lisa Randazzo: But they don't have a raise. It's not in the budget.

Kelly Decker: No, there's not.

Stanley Siegel: What's that?

Kelly Decker: And there are no non-contractual people except for our part-time workers in the summer. And they're just making minimum wage.

Stanley Siegel: Department heads are non-contractual?

Kelly Decker: No, they are contractual.

Lisa Randazzo: They have contracts.

Kelly Decker: They have contracts.

Stanley Siegel: Well that's stupid.

Kelly Decker: But Mr. Siegel, can I just ask you a question?

Stanley Siegel: Sure.

Kelly Decker: Just to be fancy though. Did you not say that something reasonable is 2%, 2.1%, 2.37.

Stanley Siegel: I said that today.

Kelly Decker: Okay. So, let me ask you something, if that acceptable to you, and that's where your goal is to get our budget down to, you have to pass the tax cap override. Because you can't get to that number. The highest number you can go, if you don't have to pass that is 1.52%. That's the highest we can go. Mr. Frank, am I not correct there?

William Frank: You're Correct. And once again, it's not the budget, is not being voted on tonight. This again, and I don't want to sound like a broken record either, but this is the ability of the Council to go beyond the 1.52. The number has not been settled yet. As Mrs. Trovei said just some few minutes ago, there's going to be another budget workshop and maybe there'll be some more ability to get the number down from the 3.0... What is it currently? 3.9 something?

Kristin Trovei: 3.89.

William Frank: 3.89. Right. So there will hopefully be some opportunities to whittle away at that number, but without passing the override this evening, that's all out the window because then it's 1.52, and you're locked in and that has been discussed is going to create a host of difficulties. But what you're talking about tonight is potentially overriding and potentially getting to a number which Councilman Seigel said possibly live with a manageable number is not 3.9 in some Council people, assuming which is fine, but we can't get to a 2. We can't get to a 2.5 or a 3, unless you pass the override. That's going to be the story. You're going to be stuck at 1.52, and then there's going to be a grave situation.

Stanley Siegel: It is going to be a grave situation. So that puts me and some other people in a predicament here to do because of the way things have to be puts us in the predicament of going against ourselves to try to save the City. So

November 23, 2020

that said I would vote for the override, only because I don't want to be blamed for 1.52%, if we can't do better than 3.9%.

Kelly Decker: Okay. So, before I go back to the voting, is there more conversation that anyone like to have or any clarification?

Timothy Simmons: I just...

Mayor: I'm sorry, Mr. Simmons.

Timothy Simmons: I would just like to state that someone has just mentioned that there weren't any ideas brought forth and I brought forth the idea that everyone we pushed back the salary increase, ask them to extend the contract by one year, and do it that way.

Kelly Decker: I will tell you that they did send out a letter. I saw the letter myself. So that's still on the works. That's a possibility.

Kristin Trovei: That option was already put out there prior to the Mayor presenting the budget. They said no, Lisa and I are trying to work with the union. I am not going to publicly say what it is that I'm going to try to present it to them because they don't negotiate, no negotiation in public. They are working on it, but it's not a guaranteed. So we have to come up with other options that might be more feasible that aren't locked into a contractual issue. It's out there, but it's not guaranteed that, and we can't meet that necessarily. So, there are other things that need to be done.

Timothy Simmons: Well, I just want to say that I take issue with the fact that it was stated that we brought forth with no ideas to try to bring the budget down. We did. And that, that was one of them.

Lisa Randazzo: But Tim, that's an idea that we already were working on. So, what of the other ideas? Because if that one doesn't work, you have to have something that's a guarantee decrease and what increase?

Timothy Simmons: One of the other ones was, that we don't take a salary and unfortunately, we at the last minute we were told that that would have to go to a referendum, and that didn't work. So that was another idea.

Kristin Trovei: It wasn't even out yet. I told you that in like July, yes, we got confirmation, but we already knew about that.

Stanley Siegel: Yeah, you've told us, but the lawyer told us, just last week,

Kristin Trovei: I know that. But our previous attorney told us that. Now we have two attorneys that have told us the same thing.

Timothy Simmons: Well, I wasn't here for that.

Stanley Siegel: So how about my idea of buying a dual garbage truck that handles both garbage and trash, eliminate the second crew and

Kristin Trovei: How are we going to pay for that Stan?

Stanley Siegel: Wait huh?

Kristin Trovei: How do we pay for that? We have no capital expense we have no have no bonds. There are going to be bonds that are ... only. How is that going help in 2021?

Stanley Siegel: We ordered a truck. We cancel that order and we order a dual truck.

Kelly Decker: It's already being delivered.

Gerald Oney: The trucks here Stan.

Stanley Siegel: There's always a reason, you know you want ideas, we throw them out there

November 23, 2020

Kristin Trovei: Yeah, I'm not making this up though. You approved the new truck last year, beginning of this year, its already here. We can't just send it back.

Stanley Siegel: If you didn't pay for it, you could probably swap it up. Everybody buys garbage trucks. It's not ...

Kristin Trovei: Okay.

Kelly Decker: There's additional expense of about \$400,000.

Kristin Trovei: It will only cost more money.

Stanley Siegel: Oh boy.

Kristin Trovei: We can work that out

Kelly Decker: I'm sorry. Mr. Oney.

Gerald Oney, Jr.: Mayor. So obviously everyone does have a lot of ideas. They've had a lot of ideas all the way through. But what we're looking for is those ideas can still be explored on the budget vote. I've asked this before Stanley, I understand your position, Tim I understand what you're saying, but we can't get to that two and a half Stanley by voting no on the tax cap override. I don't know what the stigma is that is stuck on that, but we can't adjust the budget pass 1.53, if we don't do the override. That's just it.

Stanley Siegel: Gerry, I understand that. And I changed my vote because of that. But-

Unknown: We didn't vote yet.

Stanley Siegel: ... there are people that simply can't afford \$5 a month more. They can't afford it because it's not only \$5. It's additional sewer fee. It's this, it's that, it's whatever.

Gerald Oney, Jr: And Stanley-, hold on a second.

Stanley Siegel: People are just bombarded here they can't afford it. You can, I can.

Gerald Oney, Jr.: In all honesty all these other municipalities that you're talking about If you look at them, the user rates and the fees, some of them doubled. and the revenues are stated in there are our hope and wish. So we're not in that position. And I understand what you're saying. Hopefully in the first six months we get revenue streams and we can adjust the budget halfway through the year. We're already in dismal state. If it wasn't for COVID at two and a half percent, we wouldn't even be having this conversation. COVID happened and everybody's in the same boat.

Stanley Siegel: But our revenue streams may not be there either. I don't see the hotel, any books, not in the hotel. So that may not happen. There may not be any annexation approvals in the 2021 year. So that'll just drift away. We don't know what's going on in the mountain. It's all hope and poke.

Kelly Decker: I will tell you that I have a conversation-

Kristin Trovei: We are not including that in the budget though.

Kelly Decker: I had a conversation just last week that the annexation process is still moving forward. So that is still a process for both of those donors are still interested in coming into the City of Port Jervis and starting their development. That's already in the process. The hotel is down to four items. We're just waiting for them to return. Basically, the traffic study is the biggest thing, which is apparently going to be in the next week or two. But then your biggest point here of tax revenue, like I said before, is the Orange Rockland substation property. That's a huge, huge measure for us. By the way, you didn't say one other thing that I just wanted to reiterate. If you go back and look at all the municipalities, except for the City of Newburgh, they are all either using fund balance or they inflated their income to expect the regular sales tax revenue that they all expected. If they don't get it, they fall behind. If they use their fund balance, they fall behind.

Kelly Decker: Why did I say just not Newburgh? Because here's what Newburgh did to their people. They took garbage out of the general fund and they put it into a fee like the sewer and the water, which are by the way, triple

November 23, 2020

ours and now they've increased those fees. So, the people are going to see a deduction in their taxes of about five somewhere around dollars like that. But they're going to see an additional \$200 every quarter added to their garbage. So, it's all smoke and mirrors Stan and we don't want to be smoke and mirrors. We want to show them, this is the real stuff. That's what we're talking about.

William Frank: I think what we're seeing here is everyone on the Council has a good thing to position. No one is trying to be the bad person here. Everyone has a different perspective on how to get to the goal line. I think the goal line for purposes of this evening is passing the tax cap override. The work is not done yet on the budget. I think that's the point that has been made a couple of times here, including by Councilman Siegel and Ms. Trovei, Councilman Trovei and Mr. Oney, there's still some opportunities here, but without the override, you're just going to be hamstrung on what can be done and nothing is going to be able to be done, to get this, to what everyone will agree.

William Frank: Nobody wants to raise tax. There's nobody alive that wants to raise taxes at all. The cap this year is 1.52% of the levy. In the best of all worlds, we can reduce taxes, but that's not where we are this year. 1.5 would be nice if we could keep it to that. It's not manageable with the union contract with every other expense that the City has and to keep working, to get it to a 2.5 or 2.75 or whatever the final number is. There's still an opportunity to do that. But the step this evening, unfortunately, but realistically is a tax cap override. Thank goodness we're not at the 9% or where the budget started. And a lot of hard work has been done and there was more time to do some work, but we have to take this step tonight or the Council needs to take this step tonight. And I think that's the bottom line. And I think everybody is acting in good faith with their positions and can continue to try and do that. I'm done.

Kelly Decker: Thank you.

Stanley Siegel: You got my vote, because we can't live with 1.52%, we can't live with 4% either, but it's beyond me. That if people want to give up their salary to try to help save the City that we can't do that. I just can't fathom that; it just doesn't make any logical sense to me. But then again, this is government, so logic doesn't count, I guess. Thank you.

Timothy Simmons: My problem is this that as I've stated before, when you look down the Council, we're all financially comfortable. Okay, I'm not saying we're rich by any means. If we were to put it through a 3.9% increase, let's say we go into the workshops, let's say we try to bring it down. I'm not comfortable with the fact that some of us would look at it in a way that like, "Well, it was 8.9. Now we're down to 3.9, 4%. Hey, that's good enough." Well, good enough for us might not and very well and will not be good for other people in the City.

Timothy Simmons: Some people are going to lose their homes. We increase the taxes... And I heard somebody made a comment to me. "Oh, well, you have the fourth ward. And most of the people down there rent and they don't even really pay taxes." Well, yeah, they do, because when the landlord gets hit with the rate of, with a tax increase, he's going to pass that along to the renter. And if I pay my homeowner's taxes the first year, okay. After the second year I get a tax lien and that's 24 months. I don't pay my rent to my landlord after the first two months, three months I'm out on the street. So some of them are in very, very vulnerable positions. My concern is that we would be comfortable as a Council with a 4% increase because, "Oh, gee nobody really wants to give anything up and we can't find any place else." That's my concern.

Kelly Decker: Thank you, sir. Let me ask you something, Mr. Simmons. Like Mr. Siegel said would 2 or 2.5, be reasonable?

Timothy Simmons: Mayor, if there was a guarantee that we would be there, I could probably go with it, but I don't have that guarantee.

Kelly Decker: Well, I can't do anything yet, but-

Timothy Simmons: No, I understand that. I understand that. I'll tell you my concern because I asked that question about, let's go back and let's ask the unions and employees to push their contracts back a year, push it out or extended out a year. Well, we already tried was the first response. Well, now we're going to go back and try again. My question is, how hard are we going to try it? What are we going to...

Kelly Decker: So, I will tell you. I saw it, that was talking to. They did send a letter to department heads as well as both unions.

November 23, 2020

William Frank: We don't want to get into the specifics please.

Kelly Decker: Right.

Timothy Simmons: But that's my concern.

Kelly Decker: Okay. Anyone else?

Gerald Oney, Jr: One last thought. Tim, I can assure you that Stans movement to 2.5 and we're at 3.9 will warrant, and hopefully that it's all done with the healthcare insurance premiums would cover that to get it down to two and a half. But there were a few other options I believe before cutting people would be necessary.

Timothy Simmons: And I don't want to cut people either.

Gerald Oney, Jr: I for one, and I know there's other people not willing to let anybody go. So, I applaud you Stanley, and Tim, I would hope that you could reconsider knowing that two and a half is where we're going to, and we do the best we can. I don't think anybody's going to be Happy with 3.9, but we can't do anything if we don't get past this one step. That's it. That's my last word.

Kelly Decker: All right. So, we'll go back to the vote, Mr. Siegel.

Stanley Siegel: Reluctantly yes.

Kelly Decker: Mr. Simmons.

Timothy Simmons: Sorry, Mayor. Still have to say no.

Kelly Decker: And Ms. Trovei.

Kristin Trovei: Yes.

Kelly Decker: Mr. Oney.

Gerald Oney, Jr.: Yes.

Kelly Decker: Ms. Randazzo.

Lisa Randazzo: Yes.

Kelly Decker: Ms. Mann.

Maria Mann: I'm a no.

Kelly Decker: Ms. Campbell.

Chandler Campbell: I'm a no as well.

Kelly Decker: Mr. Santini.

Dominick Santini: Yes.

Kelly Decker: And Mr. Foster.

Regis Foster: Yes.

Kelly Decker: We have one, two, three, four, five, six. That's correct. Mr. Frank, that passes?

William Frank: That passes.

Kelly Decker: Thank you.

November 23, 2020

William Frank: The quorum, it has to be 60%. Yes.

Kelly Decker: Okay.

Stanley Siegel: I only ask that we sincerely, honestly try to get that number down because the only reason that I changed my vote from before is because we cannot live with a 1.52%. It would be major reduction in the tours and all kinds of really bad things. So, I would like to have a commitment from those people that all voted yes, to really sincerely try to bring it down to a reasonable number. Thank you.

Kristin Trovei: Stan I am going to say that if anyone was trying to imply that I, or anyone else, wasn't sincerely trying to reduce it to maintain services and, give everyone in the City what they need and they want, lower tax rate. I mean, if I got offended easily, I would be offended. I'm not offended, but I'm trying really hard. I have a list of notes of things that we can try to go through, I'm hoping health insurance comes through, but I do have ideas, and I'm sure everyone has ideas and we can discuss them, but we all work hard. And some of us work hard every day, year around trying to keep our taxes low and our expenses low. So, I can guarantee you that we are working as hard as we can.

Kelly Decker: Thank you.

Stanley Siegel: It was a blanket statement. It wasn't an accusation against anybody in particular, just a blanket statement of what I hope would happen. Thank you.

Kelly Decker: Ms. Trovei, anything else?

Kristin Trovei: No, everyone stay safe and have a Happy and healthy and Thanksgiving.

Kelly Decker: Thank you. Mr. Simmons, planning and zoning.

Timothy Simmons: Thank you Mayor. The planning board met on November 17th at 7:00 PM through Zoom. They have a public hearing for 103 to 129, Jersey Avenue. It's the location of the former subway sandwich shop. It's a new business that's going to be there, Tactical Tacos. There was an approval for the application, contingent on the site plan submittal because through Zoom, they didn't have the site plan there. And they had a couple of things to just tighten up on the site plan. Their next meeting will be December 16th. If they do have any business before them at 7:00 PM through Zoom, using the City Zoom number that we're using today. Zoning board has not met since their last... They met before I reported on that. That was the extension of, Dr. Little's office on Orchard Street. Their next meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 1st, and that most definitely will be through Zoom at 7:00 PM using the Zoom number. And that's all I have Mayor.

Kelly Decker: Thank you, sir. Mr. Siegel, fire emergency management and housing.

Stanley Siegel: Thank you Mayor. The last fire emergency management meeting was on November 16th, but it was canceled as we discussed the fire department budget that night. The next meeting will be December the 2nd, unless it's canceled because of the Christmas holiday. I have three pieces of correspondence from the secretary, dear Mayor Decker and members of the City Council, this is the request that Neversink Engine Company #1, be granted to attend the following event, attend the Christmas parade in Totowa New Jersey on 11-28-2020. And I add to that if they still have it. The board officers approved this request on this date and it's dated November the 2nd, 2020. I make a motion to approve that.

Kelly Decker: Have a motion by Mr. Siegel, second by Mr. Simmons. Discussion? All in favor?

Audience: Chorus of Ayes.

Kelly Decker: Opposed? Silence so carried.

Stanley Siegel: Thank you. We have two removals of members, removal of member, Henry J Conklin, dear Mayor Decker and members of the City Council. This is request that the below name, a member of Port Jervis fire department and the company here instated to be removed from active membership roles for the reason stated. Member Henry J Conklin company Maghogomock Hook & Ladder #1, reason deceased on 10-05-2020. This change is effective this date, this is dated November 2nd and make a motion to approve that with regret.

November 23, 2020

Timothy Simmons: Second with regret.

Kelly Decker: Motion by Mr. Siegel, second by Mr. Simmons. Discussion? All in favor?

Audience: Chorus of Ayes.

Kelly Decker: Opposed? Silence so carried.

Stanley Siegel: Thank you. Next is, this is a request that the below name, a member of the Port Jervis fire department and the company here in state be removed from the active membership roles for the reason stated, member Wally B. Martin Sr., company Tri-State Hose Company #6, deceased on September 30th, 2020. This changed is effective this date. As stated in November 2nd, 2020. I make a motion. We accept that with regret as well.

Timothy Simmons: Second with regret.

Kelly Decker: Have a motion by Mr. Siegel, second by Mr. Simmons. Discussion? All in favor?

Audience: Chorus of Ayes.

Kelly Decker: Opposed? Silence so carried.

Stanley Siegel: Thank you. Housing authority. The last meeting was held on October the 27th. The next meeting tomorrow, November 24th at Hillside Terrace has been canceled. Veterans make sure to get your flu shot. You can make an appointment at the local clinic, or you can go to the drive through a Castle Point or Montrose hospitals. Seniors should consider getting a flu shot as well. It's suggested by the CDC and it's covered by Medicare. I have a report from Zach Pearce about the warming station. The warming station is now open and opened on November 15th. There are space improvements. The shower will be completed sometime this week, the laundry will be installed after the shower installation. It is possible they could need to consider a commercial washer in place of the one that's there, but they'll find out after they start using the one that was donated. And carpet, some of the carpet was purchased to cover walkways and some of the loose runners. There also was a discussion held with Bon Secours and DSS via conference call to determine what to do if a guest is COVID symptomatic upon intake and procedures will be put in place to protect everyone.

Stanley Siegel: Upcoming operations, there's a need for volunteer recruitment. It's ongoing and it's critical this year. Recruitment is an ongoing challenge for those able to help with recruiting overnight volunteers or interested in volunteering, please contact Tamara Chant at tamara.chant@gmail.com or (570) 618-1208. It's (570) 618-1208, if you're interested in volunteering or know someone that would like to. And if you'd like to sign up to bring a meal, you can visit the meal train, and I will post that on my website. Their next meeting is Monday, December 14th, at 6:00 PM via go to meeting. Hanukkah this year is on December 10th. So, I'd like to wish those that celebrate Hanukkah Happy Hanukkah and my family would like to wish everyone a Happy and safe Thanksgiving. Remember to safe distance and stay safe. Thank you.

Kelly Decker: Thank you, sir. Ms. Randazzo.

Lisa Randazzo: Thank you Mayor. I just want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Kelly Decker: Thank you. We come back to public comment. Is there anybody on here from the public that would like to speak? (pause) Not hearing any I'll moved on to my report. Ladies and gentlemen, on the agenda, you see, the City engineer's structural stability report on newly acquired tax lien 32 Church Street. As you recall, if you weren't here, most of you were here, back in 2017 we received a report that this building was in very poor structural shape. I forwarded to you today the report of our current City engineer who finds this property to be in deplorable condition and that it needs to be addressed. He's first going to be reaching out to the owner of record because we own the tax lien, we're not the owner of record. So, we're going to see what kind of response we get from him. He is same gentleman that offered us the property to buy from him, to tear it down and obviously he let it go through tax sale.

Kelly Decker: So, our City engineer's and building inspector is going to make the effort to contact him first. So we may be addressing this again on December 14th. All right just make sure that you read this, it was sent to you today. I have an offer from Sean Rubin. Sean Rubin is the lead guy from Altice Power who put our solar panels in. I got a simple request from him. Hope all is well with the members of the City Council. I'm reaching out to see whether we

November 23, 2020

could install two PV charging stations at no cost to the City at the municipal building. And I did see there were some comments that people have made about who pays for the power. I'm guessing we would pay for the power; they're paying for the installation. How much power it draws? I honestly have no idea. I could go back and ask them, or are you interested in just accepting the installation of PVV chargers? I know that a lot of places do it, so.

Stanley Siegel: My concern would be picking up the tab of providing the power to it. It could eventually be a considerable amount of money because all the car companies are gearing up now to build electric vehicles. And by 2024, they claim that 90% of the vehicles they build will be electric vehicles. So, it could be a very expensive ordeal for us to have to pay for that. Maybe they could provide solar power to power those.

Kelly Decker: And I can most certainly ask that I thought that myself and I can ask them what the average cost would be, of that plugged in, do you guys want me to pursue it? That's the question.

Stanley Siegel: I would.

Kristin Trovei: Get more information on it.

Timothy Simmons: There's no problem in looking further.

Kelly Decker: So were looking at solar and cost.

Timothy Simmons: Thanks what we're looking for, yea.

Stanley Siegel: If its cost is neutral to us, it's a good benefit for the citizens that have electric vehicles.

Kelly Decker: Sure, absolutely. The next piece that I have is that it's an unfortunate thing, we're dealing with a pandemic, it's something that I don't think any of us want to be involved in. There are recommendations from the CDC, there's recommendations from Orange County Health Department. I as a matter of fact spoke with, Dr. Gillman just yesterday by phone. Unfortunately, many of the things that we want to do, even obviously the Christkindlmarkt was canceled, during the holiday season, the tri-state chamber of commerce needed to cancel the 49th annual rick drew holiday parade because they couldn't guarantee social distancing. And then when they got to their location, which is usually the Matamoras Firehouse because of rules placed in Pennsylvania, they cannot open the firehouse to anyone. So, there's no bathroom facilities, there's no facilities where they can hand out the hot chocolate, or the donuts. So, it's an unfortunate thing that they had to cancel, and they will be coming back to us, asking us again to host it on December 5th of 2021.

Kelly Decker: The other item that I had to do was cancel the... I tried to work around the Christmas tree lighting down at the promenade, we were going to not ask Mrs. Claus and Santa to come, in hopes that we could keep social distancing. Because we don't know how many people would show up and we couldn't guarantee that social distancing. That unfortunately was canceled, but we will have the Christmas tree lit, sometime this week. Maybe I'll make some arrangements and we can do maybe just something simple. If it's this week or next week. So that we can kick off the holiday season as well as the season for those who celebrate other holiday events.

Kelly Decker: The next thing that I have is the library. We have a request in front of us, from the board of trustees, from the library, requesting that the Council authorize waiver of payment of not only the permit fee, which amounts to about a \$1,000 but \$898, for our... I'm sorry, a \$1,000 for escrow and \$898 for permits. And this is to offset the libraries, I think it's a boiler/furnace replacement. What's your pleasure? We have done this for non-profits before, such as the, little league, but we don't make a habit of it. I can give you that much.

Stanley Siegel: Aren't they under the umbrella of the school district?

Kelly Decker: No, all that it is, is the taxes get routed through the school district that pays to them, but they're their own non-for-profit entity with a board that gets elected by the people.

Timothy Simmons: Aren't they, part of Ramapo Catskill?

Kelly Decker: They are.

Timothy Simmons: I'll move a motion to allow them to be exempt.

November 23, 2020

Kelly Decker: I have a motion by Mr. Simmons. Do I have a second?

William Frank: To be just for clarity, just to waive the requirement that they pay these fees and escrow, not an exempt situation.

Kelly Decker: Right, right. Great.

Timothy Simmons: Right, thank you, sir.

Kelly Decker: Thank you. And just to waive the building permit fee and the escrow.

Timothy Simmons: Yes.

Gerald Oney, Jr.: I'll second that.

Kelly Decker: Mr. Oney. Discussion? All in favor?

Audience: Chorus of Ayes.

Kelly Decker: Opposed? Silence so carried. Okay. So, carried. Thank you. All right. I just want to remind people that what's extremely important for us during the pandemic is our small businesses. Our small businesses continue to struggle, not seeing the amount of people that they normally would see, even when there's events going on, drawing people downtown. So I'm going to ask people to remember that this Saturday is small business Saturday, to take off to the holiday season, November 28th. Please go out, even if it's buying gift certificates, for those people that you're going to give gifts to during the holiday season or somebody that's in need. Please remember our local businesses in the City of Port Jervis this Saturday and throughout the holiday season.

Kelly Decker: And the last thing that I want to do before wishing everybody, a Happy Thanksgiving is I have my appointment of the 2020 police reform in reinvention collaborative committee. Just a quick statement that this committee is made up of an eclectic group of Port Jervis residents that range from teenagers to seniors, members of the LGBTQ community, business owners, committed educators, different religious backgrounds, as well as diverse racial groups. There is someone represented by those that are physically challenged to those that have lived on the street as they were homeless and those that have served our community. It includes our police chief, our district attorney's office, a defense counselor, as well as the PBA and the City. With that said, these are the following people that are appointed to the City of Port Jervis reform and reinvention collaborative committee. I have posted it on our website, and they will be contacted this week. They're all aware because I've already been in contact with all of them that they've agreed to do this, that we will have primarily our meetings by via Zoom, unless we're allowed to meet, in-person again, which is always beneficial. But it would be, an open meeting, so that people can be aware of what's going on once we set the schedule. And I will have that schedule set in the next couple of weeks.

Kelly Decker: First she's on here. I see pastor Shirley; pastor Shirley from Faith Tabernacle International Ministries has agreed to be our faith person. Thank you. Dion Cauthen, from the 4th ward, as well as his son Geffen, Tim Monahan, who is a 2nd ward resident, Bob Bloomer, who's a business owner, from the 3rd ward, Anthony Cole from the 3rd ward, Jack Austin from the 2nd ward, Gina Torres from the 4th ward, Lisa Randazzo as our Council woman at large, also filling the position for 4th ward, Claire Dillon, 3rd ward she's a retired educator as well, Valerie Maginsky from the 1st ward, Dawn Jones from the 2nd ward and her daughter, Penny. So, we have both a mixture of a father, son, and a mother daughter. Kevin Reilly from the PBA, Chief Worden, Stewart Rosenwasser from the district attorney's office, Glenn Plotsky as a public defender and myself.

Kelly Decker: Pretty diverse committee, but we encourage everybody from the public that if you have any questions, concerns, ideas, thoughts, please either send any committee members, emails, and I will get the permission to put their emails up online and you can email them or contact them if you personally know them, or you can still write to info@portserviceny.gov. So, I'm looking forward to having several meetings with these folks and then we can come up with ideas to not only make our community better, but to make New York State better.

Kelly Decker: Again, we have to have this plan in. Our plans are, is to have it in by mid-March sometime, for the approval in April. So hopefully, we'll be able to run pretty smooth. And we do have some, obviously we have the guidelines from the reinvention informative packet, but we also have many municipalities that have already gone

November 23, 2020

through the process. So, it's great because you can feed back off some of their great ideas. So that being said, I'd like to wish everybody a Happy Thanksgiving and enjoy the holidays.

Timothy Simmons: Mayor.

Kelly Decker: Be safe. Yes.

Timothy Simmons: Before we finish there is one thing I wanted to mention while I was getting my report for zoning. The Port Jervis service special operations squad is, we're in the preliminary phases of planning the polar plunge again this year. We're going to see if we are able to do it on January 16th. So, hopefully that's something everyone has to look forward to.

Kelly Decker: Freeze the COVID out here, right?

Timothy Simmons: Yes. So, freeze it right out of here. That's right. We're starting to make plans now, because if we don't and we're able to do it, we'll be behind the curve. So, we're starting out hopefully with the idea that it will take place. So, for all those people out there that did participate last year, we are planning on doing it again, and it's going to be on the run sign up. And I'm sure Mr. Faggione will be coming to get the Council's approval to hold the event.

Kelly Decker: Thank you, sir. Mr. Frank.

William Frank: Thanks, Mr. Mayor. I just wanted to clarify on the remote meetings aspect of things that are going on these days. First of all, the current executive order that extends the ability for municipalities to have their meetings remotely without violating the open meetings law runs through December 3rd. There's a full expectation of everyone in the municipal bar that, that date is going to be extended again, based on current conditions. And just to be clear, it is not a mandate to have meetings remotely. There is the ability to have in-person meetings, if appropriate distancing and safety precautions can be observed.

William Frank: Generally, right now, because things are going in the wrong direction, virtually I don't want to speak for every municipality, most of the ones that Steph and I represent they are meeting remotely. There is nothing in an executive order that says you cannot meet in person. So, if there's a committee of a few members and a couple of people who are going to attend from the public, that can be managed if it's deemed safe by you and the committee chair collectively. That's the point. There's no mandate to meet remotely. There's just the ability to do it.

Kelly Decker: Thank you.

Lisa Randazzo: Mayor, can I just go back to the, the fees for the library? Just real quick, it was noted that, it's also that if there's an escrow that's required? I want to make sure that everyone's aware of this, it sounds like there might be some engineering fees that we would incur. So, I don't know if we want to consider amending that, that if there are outside engineering fees that we don't, the City doesn't take that onus on us, that we actually do ask for that portion to be remitted.

Kelly Decker: That they would be responsible for that.

Lisa Randazzo: Yeah. Because I don't think we want to incur that, but that's up to everyone else.

Kelly Decker: Let me just go back a sec.

Gerald Oney, Jr: Yeah, I definitely don't want to, just have it cost us money.

Lisa Randazzo: My understanding is that there could be a fee.

Kelly Decker: All right. So, Mr. Simmons, would you amend that motion?

Timothy Simmons: Yes, I would Sir.

Kelly Decker: Okay. And Mr. Oney, your second amendment.

Gerald Oney, Jr.: Yes.

November 23, 2020

Kelly Decker: And this would entail any engineering, must be paid by the library, correct?

William Frank.: Yes. But the question is...

Lisa Randazzo: For escrow.

William Frank.: The question is, do they need to post it in advance or can it be paid at a later time. The applicants and those who get building permits, they're required to post an escrow, so the City doesn't get behind. So that's really the question of whether you want those escrows upfront from the library as Council woman Randazzo said.

Lisa Randazzo: So, we can bill them. We can bill them for reimbursement, if that was...

William Frank.: You can bill them, and the permit wouldn't be the final approval and the final CO wouldn't be issued and they can be told until all the fees are paid. You could do it that way.

Lisa Randazzo: Okay. It's okay. Thank you.

Kelly Decker: So, for final issuance of CO, everything must be paid?

William Frank. Yes. That way you can forgo the escrow deposit with the understanding that you're getting a break on the building permit team if they have to pay the engineer. The engineers are charging for their review of the project and the work that has to be paid before they get the CO.

Kelly Decker: Got you. Okay. Again, I'll have to-

Timothy Simmons: I would amend my motion to conform with Mr. Frank's recommendation.

Kelly Decker: Thank you. Mr. Oney.

Gerald Oney, Jr.: Yeah, I'll make an amendment to second it.

Kelly Decker: Any further discussion? All in favor?

Audience: Chorus of Ayes.

Lisa Randazzo: Thank you.

Kelly Decker: Opposed? Silence so carried. Thank you for catching that, Ms. Randazzo.

Gerald Oney, Jr: Good catch Lisa.

Kelly Decker: Okay. If there's no other business, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

Lisa Randazzo: So, moved.

Kristin Trovei: Second.

Kelly Decker: Motion by Ms. Randazzo, second by Ms. Trovei. Discussion? All in favor?

Audience: Chorus of Ayes.

Kelly Decker: Opposed? Silence so carried. So, carried. Thank you very much. Have a Happy Thanksgiving everybody.

Gerald Oney, Jr.: Happy Thanksgiving everyone.

Kristin Trovei: Happy Thanksgiving, Mayor Kelly and everybody else.

Gerald Oney, Jr.: Bye now.

November 23, 2020

Kelly Decker: Bye now.

Lisa Randazzo: Goodbye.

Treasurer

Deputy City Clerk